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WEATHER SUMMARY, 6-MONTHS, OCTOBER 1967 THROUGH MARCH 1968

FALL-WINTER 1967-1968

TEMPERATURE: Seasonal or warmer temperatures prevailed throughout October. Although minimums fell to below 32 degrees many areas earlier, the first general freeze did not occur until October 27th. A late October warm spell with maximums in the 60's and 70's was ended November 1 by a cold air mass that brought the first subzero temperatures to a number of stations the 2nd--4th. The first general winter cold occurred November 26-28 when minimums fell to below zero most stations. November temperatures averaged near to a little warmer than normal. The first part of December was warm, but on the 11th the first of three Arctic outbreaks brought much colder weather all sections. The 21st was the coldest day for most stations, but the 31st was the coldest in the two eastern divisions. Temperatures averaged much colder than normal throughout December and early January. From then until mid-February mostly moderate weather prevailed, then it turned quite warm with average temperatures for February well above normal. Periods of April-like weather prevailed during March. Several stations reported this was the warmest March since 1946, and also one of the warmest of record. Extremes for the fall-winter season ranged from -40 at Opheim January 29 to 85 at Miles City (downtown station) October 11 and 21.

PRECIPITATION: October-January precipitation averaged normal to above normal except below in the Southeastern division October and November, and the Northeastern and Western divisions November and January. February and March rainfall was generally deficient, but a few areas West of the Divide and some stations southern portion received above normal amounts during February, and a few north-central and Missouri headwater stations in March. For the six-months October-March, the only stations receiving less than normal precipitation were those in the north half West of the Divide, and most of the north-central and southeastern sections.

SEVERE STORMS: Snow and blowing snow December 15--31 caused difficulty in much of southern Cascade, northern Meagher, Judith Basin, and western Fergus counties. Drifts up to 15 feet deep blocked roads. It was literally impossible to keep country roads open so cattle could be fed, and some ranchers used snowmobiles to roundup and feed livestock. Schools were closed at times. Unofficial readings of wind gusts up to 70 miles per hour were reported the 15th--18th. No casualties or heavy losses resulted from this period of inclement weather other than heavy road maintenance expense, hardship in caring for cattle, difficulty in getting ranch and food supplies, and farm families being marooned until roads could be opened.

WATER SUPPLY FORECASTS AS OF APRIL 1, 1968

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE: The following streamflows are expected April-September in the Columbia River tributaries and are expressed in percentage of 1948-62 averages. Kootenai at Libby 75%; Clark Fork above Missoula 93, at St. Regis 82, near Plains 79; Bitterroot at mouth 81; Blackfoot near Bonner 87; the Flathead at Columbia Falls 80; the Flathead Lake inflow 79; and Hungry Horse reservoir inflow 79%.

EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE: The following streamflows are expected April-September in the Missouri Basin and are in percentage of 1948-62 averages. The Missouri at Toston 120%, below Ft. Peck Dam 111; Gibson reservoir inflow 105; the Masias near Shelby 90; the Yellowstone at Corwin Springs 115; at Billings 118, and near Sidney 113. For the water year October-September, the Red Rock near Monida 115; Beaverhead at Barratts 111; Big Hole near Melrose 108; Ruby near Alder above the reservoir 107; the Jefferson at Sappington 111; the Madison near West Yellowstone 112, near McAllister 113; and the Gallatin at Logan 130; and the Milk at Western Crossing 93, and Eastern Crossing 85%. The above forecasts are based on an assumption that spring-summer precipitation will be near normal.

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CROP AND LIVESTOCK SUMMARY, 6 MONTHS, OCTOBER 1967 THROUGH MARCH 1968

HARVEST: Harvest of fall season crops during 1967 progressed normally with nearly ideal harvest weather. Nearly all of Montana's corn silage had been harvested by October 13. By the same date, 65 percent of the potatoes had been dug, and by early November the State's potato harvest was complete. Sugarbeet digging started at the end of September, and was complete by early November. Harvesting of dry beans and flaxseed was virtually complete by October 6.

WINTER WHEAT: Winter wheat seeding was about 70 percent complete by October 1, compared with 85 percent the previous year. Seeding operations were virtually complete by October 20, later than any recent year except 1965. Inadequate soil moisture delayed planting in the western third of the State.

Moisture received by most of the State in September along with favorable growing weather allowed very good stands of winter wheat. However, the dry northwest and north central border counties from Glacier to Hill had only fair to good stands going into the winter because of unfavorable moisture supplies.

Snowcover was intermittent throughout the winter, and wind damage was slight. The crop emerged virtually undamaged from winter dormancy. Greening began in early March in north central areas, and mild temperatures during the remainder of the month allowed the crop to make excellent progress throughout the State. Moisture shortages occurred in the northern third of the State; however, precipitation received during late March and early April partially replenished the supply.

By late March, field tillage work was under way in most areas of the State. Subsoil moisture is generally adequate for spring planted crops with the exception of a few northern counties.

RANGE LIVESTOCK: On October 1, 35 percent of the range cattle and 40 percent of the sheep had been moved to winter range or had been marketed. Fall regrowth of ranges allowed stockmen to leave livestock on summer ranges later than in recent years. Approximately 70 percent of the State's range cattle and sheep were receiving no supplemental feed in early December. Heavy supplemental feeding occurred Statewide from mid-December through mid-January during the extremely cold weather. February weather was unusually mild and supplemental feeding was minimized. The relatively mild winter was favorable for livestock, and conserved hay supplies with some carryover likely.

Calving, lambing, and shearing began in early February, and by late March had passed the one-third mark. Condition of newborn calves and lambs were excellent with losses below normal.

PRECIPITATION: 6-Month Total, October 1967 - March 1968 (Inclusive)

Station	Precip-itation	6-Month Normal	Station	Precip-itation	6-Month Normal
<u>WESTERN DIVISION</u>					
Alberton	10.55		Missoula WBAS	6.20	5.49
Bigfork 13 S	8.96		Olney	10.27	
Creston	6.28		Ovando	11.35	8.15
Darby	10.05	8.24	Ovando 7 WNW	8.87	
Deer Lodge 3 W	4.84		Paradise	10.51	
Drummond	5.87	3.74*	Philipsburg	7.04	5.23
East Anaconda	5.35	4.79	Pleasant Valley	9.27	10.85
Elliston	7.44		Polson Kerr Dam	5.04	
Eureka	4.72		Potomac	7.98	
Fortine 1 N	5.58	8.44	St. Ignatius	5.42	5.79
Hamilton	6.10	5.55	St. Regis	13.13	
Haugan	19.92	22.27	Seeley Lake	12.42	
Heron 2 NW	23.14	24.10	Stevensville	6.27	6.14
Hungry Horse Dam	21.22		Sula 1 NE	7.68	
Kalispell WBAS	6.07	7.33	Summit	23.72	
Kalispell	4.99		Superior	9.01	8.78
Kila	6.82		Swan Lake	17.49	
Libby 1 NE	10.78	11.77	Thompson Falls	14.92	12.62
Libby 32 SSE	17.81		Trout Creek	20.22	
Lindbergh Lake	18.40		Troy	17.95	
Lolo Hot Springs 2 NE	15.71		Troy 18 N	25.62	
Lonepine	4.74	5.89	West Mont Br Sta	5.07	
Missoula 3 NE	6.85	5.29	West Glacier	15.46	16.32

*Estimated Normal

PRECIPITATION: 6-Month Total, October 1967 - March 1968 (Inclusive)

Station	Precipitation	6-Month Normal	Station	Precipitation	6-Month Normal
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SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION

Alder 17 S	3.77		Habgen Dam	19.40	14.53
Belgrade FAA AP	6.45	4.17*	Jackson	6.42	
Boulder St. Sch	5.00		Lakeview	9.30	
Bozeman MSU	10.67	6.48	Lima	3.29	2.72
Bozeman 6 W	6.18		Norris 3 ENE	6.58	
Bozeman 12 NE	25.60		Norris Madison PH	5.90	5.84
Butte FAA AP	4.80	3.15	Pony	7.11	
Dillon FAA AP	3.12	2.12*	Trident	3.83	
Dillon WMC	3.73	3.22	Twin Bridges	2.68	
Divide 2 NW	6.26		Virginia City	6.95	4.42
Ennis	4.54	2.28	West Yellowstone	11.24	11.59
Gallatin Gateway 26 S	15.03		Whitehall 7 E	3.38	2.11*
Glen 4 N	2.58		Wisdom	5.84	

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Babb 6 NE	5.17	6.02	Harlem	2.41	3.35
Big Sandy	3.39	2.82	Havre WBAS	2.23	3.23
Blackleaf	2.26		Illiad	5.33	
Brady	2.47		Joplin 1 N	1.16	
Browning	4.34	4.64	Loma 1 NNW	5.40	
Chester	2.28		Lonesome Lake	2.69	
Chester 26 NNW	3.33		Loring 10 N	2.63	
Chinook	2.58	3.27	Malta	2.10	3.00
Choteau	3.45	2.11	Malta 35 S	2.28	
Cleveland 5 ENE	3.82		Many Glacier	25.60	
Conrad	2.26	2.69	Phillips 1 S	2.28	
Content	2.34		Rudyard 30 N	1.60	
Cut Bank FAA AP	1.45	2.41	Saco 1 NNW	2.40	
Del Bonita	4.59		Santa Rita 14 N	4.00	
Dunkirk 14 NNE	2.64	2.73	Shelby AP	1.01	
Dupuyer 7 WNW	2.56		Shonkin 7 S	13.95	
Fairfield	3.42	2.40	Simpson 6 NW	1.23	2.04
Forks 4 NNE	2.84		Sweetgrass	2.32	
Ft. Assiniboine	2.60	2.69	Telegraph Creek	3.70	2.76
Ft. Benton	5.21	4.45*	Tiber Dam	1.64	
Geraldine	4.68		Turner	2.41	
Gilford	2.31		Valier	2.14	2.50
Goldbutte 7 N	2.91		Zortman	4.34	

CENTRAL DIVISION

Augusta	3.70	3.76	Martinsdale 3 NNW	3.18	3.05*
Austin 1 W	7.48		Melstone	3.95	3.30
Canyon Ferry PH	5.37		Moccasin Exp Sta	3.29	3.09
Cascade 5 S	6.67	3.82	Neihart 8 NNW	12.87	
Cascade 20 SSE	6.41		Raynesford 1 W	6.71	
Denton 1 NNE	4.67		Rogers Pass 6 NNE	7.82	
Flatwillow 4 ENE	2.99	3.04	Roundup	1.97	2.71
Gibson Dam	6.15	5.48	Roy 8 NE	2.46	
Grass Range	3.89		Roy 24 NE	2.04	
Grass Range 12 NE	1.78		Ryegate 18 NNW	3.02	
Great Falls WBAS	5.29	4.35	Stanford 1 WNW	3.51	3.77
Harlowton	2.43		Sun River 5 SW	3.37	
Helena WBAS	4.48	3.36	Toston 3 SW	4.79	
Holter Dam	5.35	3.42	Townsend	4.92	
Judith Gap 13 E	4.24		Utica 11 WSW	6.32	
Lenape 5 SW	6.73		White Sul. Springs	4.74	7.27
Lewistown FAA AP	5.46	4.50	Winifred	4.30	3.70
Lincoln RS	9.14				

*Estimated Normal

Station	Precipitation	6-Month Normal	Station	Precipitation	6-Month Normal
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SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION

Ballantine	2.79	3.59	Huntley Exp Sta	3.00	3.52
Big Timber	6.06	4.30	Hysham	3.01	
Billings Water Plant	3.95	3.97	Joliet	5.16	
Billings WBAS	4.79	4.50	Kirby 1 S	8.40	
Bridger	5.84		Livingston FAA AP	6.85	4.14*
Broadview	4.11		Melville 4 W	5.06	
Rusby	5.26	3.22	Mystic Lake	12.38	8.77
Columbus	1.96	3.75	Rapelje 4 S	6.09	3.70
Crow Agency	5.02	5.12	Red Lodge	14.26	6.63
Custer	3.92		Wilsall 8 ENE	9.78	
Gardiner	5.21		Wyola	6.99	5.13*
Hardin	3.70		Yellowtail Dam	6.82	

NORTHEASTERN DIVISION

Bredette	2.61		Mosby 2 ENE	3.11	
Brockway 3 WSW	1.43		Mosby 18 N	2.43	
Circle	2.56	2.05*	Nohly 3 WNW	1.81	
Cohagen	2.42		Opheim 10 N	2.21	
Culbertson	3.28	2.58	Opheim 12 SSE	3.06	
Fort Peck PP	1.66		Raymond Border Sta	3.18	
Glasgow WBAS	2.13	3.01	Redstone	2.54	
Glendive	2.44	2.82	Richey	1.84	
Haxby 18 SW	3.17	3.11	Savage	1.76	2.59
Hinsdale	2.74		Scobey	3.43	
Jordan	2.80	2.50	Sidney	2.66	2.76*
Jordan 22 E	1.41		Vida	2.50	4.43
Lustre 4 NNW	2.19	1.97	Westby	2.93	
Medicine Lake	2.89	2.42	Wolf Point 4 ESE	1.94	

SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION

Albion 1 N	1.74		Miles City FAA AP	4.06	3.13
Biddle 8 SW	2.68		Mizpah 4 NNW	2.89	
Birney 2 SE	4.23		Moorhead 9 NE	3.93	
Boyes	2.23		Otter 9 SSW	6.30	
Brandenberg	3.81		Plevna	2.47	2.90
Broadus	3.27	3.75*	Powderville 8 NNE	2.82	
Carlyle 12 NW	2.21		Ridgway 1 S	1.50	
Colstrip	4.70	4.65	Rock Springs	1.71	
Ekalaka	2.26	2.90	Sonnette 2 WNW	3.70	
Ingomar 11 NE	2.65		Terry	1.86	
Lame Deer	4.53		Terry 21 NNW	1.73	
Mildred	2.27	2.80	Wibaux 2 E	1.94	
Miles City	3.87				

*Estimated Normal

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